

THE VOICE

MAGAZINE

Vol 11 Issue 39
September 24, 2003

Unlearning

Dissassembling your education

Who owns your cells?

A landmark medical court case

Five good reasons to quit smoking

Are you convinced yet?

The first ever Voice writing contest!

Win scholarship dollars and become a
published writer! Details inside...

NEW COLUMN: PRIMETIME UPDATE

Plus: Canadian FedWatch!, Flicks & Folios,
Net Nerd's Profiles, Dear Sandra, and news,
announcements and opportunities from your
university and beyond.

THE VOICE

Sep 24, 2003

Volume 11, Issue 39

Welcome To The Voice PDF

The Voice has an interactive table of contents. Click on a story title or author name to jump to an article. Click the bottom-right corner of any page to return to the contents. Some ads and graphics are also links.

FEATURES

EDITORIAL PAGES

ARTICLES

UNLEARNING

DO YOU OWN YOUR BODY PARTS?

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO QUIT SMOKING

TODAY I WITNESSED A MIRACLE

SCHOLARSHIPS GOING TO WASTE

TAKING TUITION TO HEART

Bill Pollett

Wayne E. Benedict

Shannon Maguire

Debbie Jabbour

Ginny Collins

Mark B. Thomas

FICTION FEATURE

POEMS BY

Sara Kinninmont

COLUMNS

NEW: PRIMETIME UPDATE

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

NEW: THE NET NERD'S WEBSITE PROFILES

MUSIC REVIEW: Welcome to the Monkeyhouse - The Dandy Warhols

Clare Bradley

SOUNDING OFF: Provincial quirks

AUSU THIS MONTH

FLICKS & FOLIOS - East of Eden

Laura Seymour

CANADIAN FEDWATCH!

Karl Low

DEAR SANDRA

NEWS FROM AU - Summer in Review

The Insider

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

The Insider

FROM THE READERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIFIEDS!



We love to hear from you! Send your letters to voice@ausu.org, and please indicate if we may publish your letter in the Voice.

Gratitude is merely the secret hope
of further favors.

Francois de La Rochefoucauld
(1613 - 1680)

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students'
Union
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street,
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE:
WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is funded by the
Athabasca University Students'
Union, for the students of Athabasca
university

The Voice is published every
Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at:
VOICE@AUSU.ORG

To subscribe for weekly email
reminders as each issue is posted,
see the 'subscribe' link on *The Voice*
front page

www.ausu.org/voice

The Voice does not share its
subscriber list with anyone

Special thanks to Athabasca
University's *The Insider* for its
frequent contributions

© 2003 by The Voice

EDITORIAL PAGES

THIS WEEK

YOU DON'T WANT TO WIN \$300?

There are just three weeks left to enter for the first Voice writing contest. Responses to the non-fiction category have been weak, which is surprising, since so many of you have opinions on how AU could be better run.

C'mon, how hard can it be? Just tell me, in 1500 words or less, what you would do as President of AU. Your chances of winning \$300 are high, and I know you all could use that money to offset this year's tuition increase. Besides, it's great practice for that annual As Prime Minister contest that runs nationally and which has phenomenal prizes.

We've had some great submissions to the fiction category, but I think there are probably even more talented writers out there. If you wish to submit poetry, you can send one or two poems, as long as you come in under the word limit. Our judges can't wait to read all of your entries.

What have you got to lose? Even if you don't win the cash, you might qualify for a secondary prize...

NEW COLUMN: Did you kick yourself last Thursday night for missing the *Survivor: Pearl Islands* premiere? Do you wish there was some way that you could keep up to date on all of your favourite shows, even when you miss an episode here and there? If so, you'll love Primetime Update, where Amanda Baldwin fills you in on all of the juicy details of the shows that you missed - including that much anticipated Survivor premiere!

UNLEARNING: Having nearly learned everything there is worth knowing, Bill Pollett prepares for the inevitable contraction of his mental universe...

DO YOU OWN YOUR BODY PARTS? Law student Wayne Benedict learns that you may have few rights over your physical substance, once it is separated from your living body. Are we prepared for the consequences of such a ruling?

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO QUIT SMOKING: Are you in the minority of Canadians who still smoke? Maybe you are just looking for a really good reason to quit. Check out the Five Reasons and find out what you have to look forward to.

I SURVIVED THE AUSU MARATHON...

I don't have a whole lot to say this week, because I'm tired and a little cranky. Both may be the result of the inhumanly [inhumanely?] long and arduous AUSU council meeting that I attended last Thursday night, and which I have not prepared a report on, yet.

Council called to order at just after 5:30 pm and ended some time after 9:30, or closer to 9:45. I'm not sure. I think I collapsed when I finally got off the phone. My cordless ran out of battery power around 8:00, so I spent the final hour and a half bent over my office table listening in through my fax phone, with its cleverly short cord which prevents tangling and ensures vertebral fusing if used for more than half an hour. So after I put "new phone" on my shopping list, I pretty much went into a coma.

Four and a half to five hours is a long time to do anything, even those really fun things that I used to love to do for hours on end in my more acrobatic years, but which now also result in an aching back. Attending a council meeting is somewhat less fun than that, and the sore muscles are less pleasantly earned... This meeting, in particular, was very dismal in spots, but I'll report more on that next week. Politics... 'nuff said.

On the flip side, council overall are a great bunch of folks and we always have a few laughs. They let me butt in and spout my opinions all the time too, which is real generous of them, considering how many opinions I have and the price of phone time. Council meetings are also generally very productive - hence the length.

Thursday was not without levity and there was also plenty of new blood. You see, this was the meeting AUSU designated to add new council members to its slowly decreasing ranks. Three slots were open, five students applied, and all attended the meeting to find out their fate. hilariously, the Edmonton contingent, who are in control of the phone line and the teleconference pod, sat by at the three-hour mark as the recorded Telus notice announced that only 10 minutes remained in the booked phone time. They sat by again as the five-minute warning played. Exactly five minutes later the lines went dead and the meeting was brought to an abrupt end as about a dozen people across the country simultaneously shouted "hello??" into dead air.

I suppose each of the Edmonton members thought that someone else was going to take care of it. There is a psychological term for this, and if I wasn't so worn out I'd surely I remember it. Diffusion of responsibility? Dispersion of Liability? Crap... I actually aced that course! The psych students know what I mean.

Of course what made it funny was that it has never happened before (that I know of), but since there were more than the usual number of observers and many attendees new to teleconferencing, it just had to happen on this particular night.

Fortunately, all but one of the attendees were able to find their way back once a new teleconference was booked, and council resumed some ten minutes later.

Very early in the meeting, the new councillors were added. In fact, it became the first order of business once the agenda was adjusted to accommodate a councillor who had to leave early. I have to question the logic of this. You see, once the new council members were selected, they immediately became active councillors capable of voting and having input into the meeting, with no briefing or period of acclimatization whatsoever.

Now I'm certain that all of the new council members are smart people and quick learners. Also, two of the three have attended a council meeting in the past and have served on an AUSU committee. Nevertheless, to expect members who had been on council for only minutes to be voting on council initiatives seems absurd, especially because these members didn't even receive all of the documentation that other councillors had.

I will go on record as saying that I think this part of the process was handled very poorly, and that it was inappropriate to have brand new council members in a position of making decisions on initiatives that they had no background information on, working with a group that they had never worked with before. One of the new members hadn't even met [even over the phone] most of the council. It would have made much more sense if the new council members had been selected either at the end of the meeting, or, given that the vote had to be held early, that their councillor status only become active at the end of the meeting.

I'm thankful that no extremely important votes were cast at this meeting, because surely the new council members, as they become more informed on council activities, will have many more questions, ideas, and insights that they can bring to the table, and they may have a very different view of the issues that they did on this first day. In defence of the new councillors, they did their best to ask questions and learn as they went along and everything ran quite smoothly.

The other thing that surprised me, is that council had not decided how many members they would add prior to the meeting, even though the number of new members coming in late in the term is as significant a question as who those new members would be. They could have added none, one, two, or three members. As it turns out, they filled all three positions, so council is once again working with its maximum nine members. Those

who did not make it on to council this time will have their chance very soon, however. There will be an election around March, and candidates will be asked to indicate their intention to run in the next few weeks. Since the last two councils were chosen by acclamation, I think everyone is looking forward to a full election this year [which isn't to say that the acclaimed council is any less effective than an elected one would have been, but it's always nice to see democracy in action!]

Oddly, after many months of commenting that it is mostly Alberta students who are interested in council, and that AUSU should strive to obtain a more even representation across Canada wherever possible, council nevertheless chose to add two more Alberta members, both from municipalities that already have representatives. This is not to question the capabilities of those members, but I expected that with three applicants from outside Alberta, we would see a more nationally balanced council. Obviously, though, council weighed a number of factors when selecting the new members. Fortunately, AUSU now has one non-Alberta councillor. She lives in Ottawa and will surely bring a national perspective to council discussions.

Council has also completely foiled my plan to show that The Voice is a separate entity from AUSU. Two of the three new members are Voice writers, which brings the total up to 5 regular writers and 1 occasional writer who are on council! For some reason, AUSU seems to attract students with an affinity for writing! I suppose it's fitting since most of the work is done through email.

All of the council members who write for the Voice are good writers, who submit a lot of material on a regular basis and The Voice is lucky to have them. Most university newspapers don't even allow councillors to write for them, but we at AU have a good working relationship and this paper has benefited from that. I feel it is very important, however, that I make it clear to the readers that I am under no obligation to accept articles from anyone on council, nor do their submissions receive greater consideration than those from non-council members. If anything, I try to give greater consideration to new contributors, since they help increase the diversity of the paper. I currently have another fourteen regular writers who have no ties to council at all.

The Voice, by its very mandate, is the AU students' paper - not the paper of AUSU. Yep, AUSU funds The Voice, but they also recognize the value of a students' publication and I have to say that they are pretty good at letting this paper be just that. So, don't be afraid to speak up and become a part of the AU student community! If you have an opinions or concerns about the relationship between The Voice and the students' union, drop me a line. Ultimately it's the students who fund the paper [AUSU decides how much of your money comes here] and who should benefit from it. I'll be posting my Annual Reader Survey next week, and I hope to hear from as many of you as possible! Being an online paper makes it hard to know how many readers we have.

Oh, and The Voice will soon have merchandise available for sale, including mugs, some fabulous jackets, and a signature bookbag. Look for details coming soon. Survey respondents will be included in a draw to win some of these items.

I guess I did have a lot to say...

Tamra Ross Low
Editor in Chief

FICTION WANTED

The Voice fiction feature has become popular, but submissions have been slow. Send us your best fiction today, and it might become our next feature.

ATTENTION BUDDING WRITERS

The Voice needs some new Voices! We know you have plenty to say, so why not get paid for it. Send us a writing sample or article for submission and you might be published in an upcoming issue. It's fun, it's easy, and it pays. Contact voice@ausu.org for more details.



THE FIRST VOICE MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST!

\$600 in scholarships to be awarded
\$300 each in the fiction and non-fiction categories

Write for The Voice and win money for your education.

The Voice is launching its very first writing contest, with categories for both fiction, and non fiction.

Non-Fiction: In 1500 words or less, tell us what you would do if you were the President of Athabasca University. Feel free to use research or statistics in your article [with proper citations], or write a creative opinion piece. Don't just write a critique of AU - tell us what you would do to make a difference and to make distance education even better!

Fiction: Free form - write a 1500 word or less fiction submission in any genre or any format. Short stories, poetry, a scene from a play, even a comic. Be creative!

Please read the contest rules and regulations and submission guidelines very carefully to ensure you are not disqualified. Good luck!

Rules and Regulations:

- Entrants must be students of Athabasca University. Student status will be confirmed with the AU registrar. Please ensure that the registrar has your current address and contact information.
- All non-fiction entries become the property of The Voice. Winning entries will be published in an upcoming Voice issue. The Voice reserves the right to print non-winning fiction entries at a rate of remuneration in accordance with current Voice freelance submission rates. The Voice may use information from non-fiction entries to create a composite article about what entrants would do as president of AU, or may use excerpts from these entries at any time. No remuneration will be provided for such use.
- All decisions regarding this contest and the selection of winners remain with the judging panel and are final and binding.
- AU, AUSU, and Voice staff or council members are not eligible for the contest.
- Entries will be judged by a panel to be selected by the Voice Editor, and this panel may include: AU students, AU tutors, and/or AUSU council members. The panel will include at least 3 members.
- The Voice Editor will collect articles and oversee the judging, but will not be a judge.
- Entries must be original works which have not been printed or published elsewhere, and must not be course assignment papers or derivatives of.
- Entries must not contain any information that would make the identity of the author evident to judges. To insure fairness, all entries will be forwarded to the judging panel with a reference number attached, but no personally identifying information will be forwarded. The Voice Editor will keep the identity of the authors private until the contest closes. The Voice editor will keep a record of the authors of submissions, and will be the sole owner of this list.
- Entries will not be edited for grammar, spelling, or content, although The Voice Editor may black out any personally identifying information contained within the submission. Otherwise, entries will be forwarded to the judging panel, as is.
- **The deadline for submissions in both categories will be October 15, 2003. The winner will be announced by November 10, 2003. The Voice reserves the right to extend either deadline if necessary.**
- One grand prize winner will be selected in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. If no entries are received in one of the categories, the prize money will be returned to the Voice scholarship budget. Prizes will be awarded in the form of a cheque, payable in Canadian funds.

- The Voice reserves the right to add additional, secondary prizes.
- The Voice is not responsible for lost emails. The Voice editor will confirm receipt of all entries by email. Follow up if you do not receive a reply.
- All entrants agree to allow their name and city to be printed, along with their submission, should it be selected as a winning entry. No further remuneration will be paid to the contest winner when their entry is printed.
- Entrants will be asked to sign a standard Release and Indemnity form; each prize winner agrees to release the Sponsor and its agents from any liability in connection with the prizes awarded in this contest.
- Any entrant found to be tampering with the contest results, or attempting to influence any of the judging members, or using any forums or other public communications media to advise others of which entry is theirs will be disqualified; or if The Voice editor determines, at her sole discretion, that any other form of tampering has been attempted, that entrant will be disqualified.
- Where applicable, this contest is subject to all federal, provincial and municipal laws. Contest void where prohibited by law.

Submission Guidelines:

- Your submission must be an electronic file, sent as an attachment to email. Submissions sent as the body of an email will not be accepted. Contact voice@ausu.org if you require instructions on how to attach a file to an email.
- Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format [.doc], rich text format [.rtf] or plain text format [.txt]. If you use a Word Processor other than Word or work on a Mac computer, you can save a file in one of these alternate formats using the 'save as' function and selecting the desired format on the save menu. Contact The Voice editor if you require assistance in formatting your submission.
- All entries must be under 1500 words, due to judging time constraints. Length will be determined by the Word Count feature in Microsoft Word. Your References and Citations section will not be included in the word count.
- Entries should not include unnecessary formatting such as drop caps, graphics [unless the graphic is integral to the work], or unusual fonts. Times New Roman or Arial 12 point font are preferred. Entries must be text - scans of hand written or typed documents will not be accepted.
- All entries forwarded to the judging panel will be converted to the same file format, font style and font size.
- Submit your entry as an email attachment. The email should include the following information: Your full name, your AU student ID number, an email address and telephone number where we may contact you, your home address, the title of your entry, and whether you are submitting a fiction or non-fiction entry. Make sure non-fiction entries are based on the topic question detailed above. Fiction entries can be on any topic you like. Do not include your contact information within your article - but be sure to include a title. Your contact information and article will be coded, and filed separately.
- Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - Non Fiction entries: will be judged on originality, creativity, the plausibility of your suggestions, and how well your support your suggestions with data or argument. You will also be judged on the presentation of your article, including professionalism, proper spelling, grammar and syntax, and readability.
 - Fiction entries: will be judged on creativity, entertainment value, and the originality or your writing style. Regardless of the genre you choose, you will be judged on the effectiveness of your piece, and your technical writing skills.



AUSU STUDENT GIFT PACKS NOW AVAILABLE

AUSU students can now order their student gift packs, free courtesy of your students' union.

The packs are filled with AUSU logo items to help you study, relax, and learn more about AUSU.

Contact ausu@ausu.org to order your gift pack today!



Bill Pollett

If all goes according to my plan (but really, why should it?) by June of the year of our Lord, 2007, I will have completed my master's degree in literature. This will be the fulfillment of a promise made to myself many years ago (whilst drunk on Peach Schnapps in an abandoned church on the edge of the Arctic Circle) to once and for all set aside childish dreams of a life as a spokesmodel for the car air-freshener industry. Having achieved this educational milestone I will, of course, have ever so shrewdly positioned myself for a career as a coffee shop barista.

Far from resting on my laurels, though, I will enjoy only the briefest of celebratory dinners (I'm thinking instant noodles and Pabst Blue Ribbon) before swiftly enacting Phase Two of my life plan. This stage will involve the gradual and systematic unlearning of all the academic twaddle that I have previously absorbed. As every quantum physicist knows, the cosmos will one day reach the outer limits of its expansion. At this point, the galaxies will begin to draw back in upon themselves. Possibly time will begin to run in reverse (which means I should probably hang onto that skinny white leather tie at the back of my closet). Always on the look out for a good role model, I plan to conduct myself in a similar fashion on a scholastic level.

First of all, I will forget all of the nonsense I'll have had to cobble together for my thesis, which will probably revolve around the relationship between Quebecois gothic literature and Bakelite chafing dishes. From there I will move backward through my undergraduate years. I will no longer be aware of techniques or allusions of any kind. I will forget that there is any qualitative difference between Eliot's "The Wasteland" and the lyrics to a Barry White song. I will once again relish writing that tells instead of shows.

From there, it's on to high school (be gone, unsolvable algebraic word problems) and elementary school (catch ya later, verb declension; au revoir rudimentary French) before setting my sights on the greatest triumph of all: the total erasure of everything I learned in grades K through One. At this point, if everything gels, I will once again be able to colour way, way outside the lines. I will be ignited by wonder at the sight of satellites and sand dollars. Like my daughter, I will be able to converse with Dalmatians and dragons. Ultimately I will be able to run naked around the kitchen shaking my booty and singing loud, off-key versions of "Coconut" without the slightest hint of embarrassment.

Okay, with that part I'm already there.

C A U S
Council of Alberta University Students
Athabasca • Calgary • Alberta • Lethbridge

CAUS represents university students across Alberta. Visit the CAUS and the Tuition CAUSE websites to learn more about what CAUS is doing to keep Alberta tuitions affordable.

CAUS: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/caus/alpha/>
Tuition Cause: <http://tc.su.ualberta.ca/>

FIVE GOOD REASONS TO QUIT SMOKING

Shannon Maguire



Most smokers are sick and tired of everyone telling them to quit smoking. I know this because I was a smoker for eight years, and all of my friends and family were smokers as well. We cursed the government every time the taxes were raised and smoking was banned in yet another city. My eyes were opened, however, when I quit smoking one year ago. I was very surprised at how much my quality of life improved after I quit. My biggest fear about quitting was that I would feel lost without my cigarettes. Since I had been a smoker for so long I could not remember what it was like to be a non-smoker. What do non-smokers do during coffee breaks? What do they do when they are stressed out? I had no idea what the answers to these questions were, and

that scared me. It didn't stop me, however, and now I cringe every time I think about picking up a cigarette. Now that I have quit I can point out five good reasons to quit smoking.

1. Quitting restores your health to its previous condition

As you quit smoking your health will gradually improve and your risk of developing smoking related diseases decreases. The first noticeable benefit is an improvement in your sense of taste and smell, which will occur within 48 hours of quitting (Health Canada, Benefits of Quitting). When I was a smoker I refused to believe that there was anything wrong with my sense of smell or taste. I was absolutely amazed to find out that my senses were in fact impaired, and I had spent years missing out on the full range of sweet scents and delightful flavors. Another benefit that occurs after 48 hours is a decreased risk of having a heart attack (Health Canada - Benefits of Quitting).

After 72 hours your lung capacity will increase and breathing will become easier. Two weeks to three months after quitting your lung functioning will increase even more and your circulation will get better. After six months you will notice a decrease in coughing, congestion, shortness of breath and fatigue. You will also experience improved sinuses (Health Canada - Benefits of Quitting). When I quit smoking I actually experienced these benefits after only a month with no smoking. The things I liked the most about this stage included walking up a flight of stairs without losing my breath, no more unexpected and uncontrollable coughing outbursts, and no more hyperventilating while playing sports. I will warn you though that in the beginning you will actually cough more than usual. This is good coughing, however, because your body is starting to clean out your lungs.

After one year with no smoking your chance of having a heart attack caused by smoking is decreased by 50%. Ten years after quitting your chances of developing lung cancer are also decreased by 50%. Finally, after 15 years your chances of dying from a heart attack are the same as a person who never smoked (Health Canada - Benefits of Quitting).

2. Quitting will help you live longer and healthier

When you smoke you increase your chances of developing certain diseases and unpleasant medical conditions. You are specifically at a higher risk of developing:

Lung Diseases:

- 90% of emphysema cases are caused by smoking
- Increased risk of developing asthma
- Smokers are 20 times more likely to die of lung cancer

Mouth Problems:

- Higher chance of developing gum disease
- Smoking is the most common cause of tongue and mouth cancer

Stomach Ulcers:

- More likely to develop ulcers and recurring ulcers
- May have increased risk of developing chronic bowel disease

Throat Cancer:

- Smoking causes 4 out of 5 cases of cancer of the esophagus

Heart Disease:

- Smoking can lead to heart attacks and heart disease

Psoriasis:

- Smoking doubles your chances of contracting psoriasis – a disfiguring red and silver rash

Cataracts:

- Your chances of developing cataracts increase as you smoke more
- Ex-smokers are still 50% more likely to develop a cataract than someone who never smoked
(Health Canada - Health Facts)

Impotence:

- Smoking doubles your chances of becoming impotent (Health Canada - Impotence)

3. Quitting can improve your social life

Yes, believe it or not, smoking can affect your social life. First of all, most non-smokers don't like the smell of cigarette smoke, and whether you notice it or not all smokers smell like smoke after they have a cigarette. I found out about this after I quit smoking and visited the smoking section. Another social downfall of smoking is that it creates yellow stains on your fingers and teeth. This is not too attractive to non-smokers you may wish to date.

Even if all of your friends are smokers who don't mind the smell and look of your habit you may still experience a social disadvantage. I'm talking about the increasing trend of Canadian cities to enact by-laws prohibiting smoking in public buildings. When I was a smoker my friends and I would never go to certain bars because they were non-smoking. Now that I have quit I love the freedom of going wherever I want and not worrying about whether they allow smoking. If you are currently living in a city that does not prohibit smoking you would still be wise to quit. There are over 300 municipalities in Canada that are in various stages of passing by-laws that will prohibit smoking in public places. More and more cities are restricting where you can smoke every day and your city could be next (Health Canada - 2003 Progress Report).

4. Quitting can save you money

When I was a smoker I spent an average of \$150-\$200 a month on cigarettes, but no matter how much money you spend on cigarettes it is still money that could be used for something else. A friend of mine quit smoking by promising to buy herself a present every month with the money she saved. She found that she could afford to buy something nice every month, and looking forward to this monthly present kept her from smoking. Smoking is not going to get any cheaper either because the trend right now is to raise the taxes on cigarettes instead of lowering them. The following tax increases have been implemented this year:

Prince Edward Island: Increased taxes by \$7.00 per carton

Newfoundland and Labrador: Increased taxes from 13.5 cents to 15 cents a cigarette and from 11 cents to 15 cents per gram on fine-cut tobacco

Nova Scotia: Seems to be raising the taxes by \$5.00 per carton a year because they implemented that tax increase in 2002 and 2003

Quebec: Increased taxes by \$5.00 per carton

Ontario: No tax increases this year, but last year it was increased by \$5.00 per carton

Manitoba: Increased taxes by \$2.00 per carton of cigarettes, and from 45% to 60% of the selling price for cigars

Northwest Territories: Increased taxes by \$8.80 per carton of cigarettes, and 3 cents per gram on loose tobacco

Yukon: Increased taxes by \$8.00 per carton

British Columbia: Increased taxes by \$2.00 per carton

New Brunswick: No tax increases this year, but last year it was increased by \$9.00 per carton

(Health Canada - 2003 Progress Report)

5. Smoking is no longer trendy

In 1965 smoking was the trendy thing to do and 50% of the population smoked cigarettes. By 2002 the number of smokers had dropped to 21%. Not only are less people smoking, the people who do smoke are also smoking less than they used to. Average cigarette consumption has dropped from an average of 20.6 cigarettes a day in 1985 to 16.4 in 2002 (Health Canada - 2003 Progress Report).

The government has also restricted tobacco companies from advertising in Canada and sponsoring Canadian events. The Tobacco Act, which was enacted in Canada in 1997, contains these restrictions and it will be coming into effect on October 1, 2003. Unfortunately, this act has resulted in the loss of sponsorship for the du Maurier Jazz Festival and the World Stage Festival. Canada has also been taken off the schedule for the 2004 Formula One Grand Prix. On the bright side Imperial Tobacco Canada has announced that it will continue to give money to Canadian arts groups (Gordon). The government has also refused to make exceptions to the law in order to keep these events. They are unwilling to bend the law because they believe it will be very effective in reducing tobacco use (Fox Sports). The fight to reduce tobacco use has also become a global issue. For instance, Canada recently became a signatory to the first international health treaty called the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2003 Progress Report on Tobacco Control).

By quitting smoking you can restore your health, live longer, improve your social life, and save money. If you choose not to quit you may soon find yourself among a small minority of people. Can you think of this many good reasons to keep smoking?

Sources

- Fox Sports. Canada still hopes to stage GP. foxsportsnews.com. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from <http://foxsports.news.com.au/story.0,8659,7280993-23770.html>
- Gordon, M. (2003, September 5). Tobacco giant to support arts. The Toronto Star. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from www.thestar.com/NASApp/ics/contentserver?pagename=thestar
- Health Canada – Benefits of Quitting. Benefits of Quitting. hc-sc.gc.ca. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/tobacco/quitting/road/benefits.html
- Health Canada – Health Facts. hc-sc.gc.ca. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/tobacco/youth/poster.html
- Health Canada – Impotence. hc-sc.gc.ca. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/tobacco/facts/health_facts/impotence.html
- Health Canada – 2003 Progress Report. The National Strategy: Moving Forward The 2003 Progress Report on Tobacco Control. hc-sc.gc.ca. Retrieved September 19, 2003, from www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/tobacco/quitting/policy/prog03/tobacco.e3.pdf

Primetime Update

Week of September 19, 2003

Amanda Lyn Baldwin

Missed your favorite shows? No problem. Primetime updated gives you the rundown on what happened on TV this week, including the much anticipated **Survivor: Pearl Islands** premiere.

Survivor: Pearl Islands SEASON PREMIERE



Thursday night brought us the 7th rendition of this castaway adventure in a new setting, with new competitors, and new twists. This season's theme of pirating became quite evident through the names of the two tribes, Morgan and Drake.

It started with 16 castaways on their way to a small village, expecting to be well kept for a few days before starting the adventure. All were decked out in their finest dresses and suits (Shawn Cohen, the single, 29 year old advertising salesman from New York, wore Armani), not to mention high-heeled shoes. To their surprise, host Jeff Probst divided the 16 into two tribes of 8 and instructed them overboard with no luggage or luxuries except the clothing upon them. Sympathy was provided by the tossing of a pair of tennis shoes for each castaway as well as a small amount of Panamanian money which they could use in the village beyond. The two teams would

need to hire a boat and be at their respective locations by sundown.

Upon reaching the shore, the Morgan tribe made the mistake of leaving their belongings unattended. In the pirating spirit, Rupert Beneham, the 39 year old troubled teens mentor from Indianapolis who has also worked as gravedigger, stole all their shoes and bartered them to the locals. Now, if you've never watched Survivor before, just one sight of this guy will make you start. He weighs about 250 lbs, and has a big scruffy head of brown hair and a beard/mustache combo to match. He arrived wearing a tie-died muscle shirt and a heavy pair of jeans that made his legs noodle-like on the swim to shore. His pirating came at no surprise; he looks kind of like the ghost of Blackbeard! At this point it seemed that the Drake tribe had a hand up, since Sandra Diaz-Twine, the 29 year old office assistant from Washington, took advantage of her Spanish tongue to ensure better bargains with merchants.

On the Morgan side of things, 27 year old Osten, an equity trade manager from Boston, traded all his clothes except his boxers, in an effort to help his tribe. He also suggested that the girls should bare their breasts for money which gave him an instant chauvinist air. At the end of the "shopping spree," both tribes had to give up and head for home.

Tribe unity came together on Morgan's beach, as the scout leader, 51 year old Lillian Morris from Cincinnati, Ohio, built a fire, and half naked Osten began a lean-to shelter against a shale wall. When night came, Morgan soon realized that their rock wall was raining down on them, plus they were swarmed by hermit crabs. And of course, comedian Osten mistook a vine for a snake.

The first night at Drake could have been quite pleasant, had the tribe not attained a large amount of cheap Panamanian wine in the village. Jon Dalton, the 29 year old art consultant from Danville Virginia thought he could crack everyone up, however he chose to do this through sexist remarks to the ladies, talking crap, and cursing; turning some of the tribe members away.

In the morning, Drake members cut and tore their clothing into pieces that would be more functional. Shawn, the Armani guy, cut his pants at the knees, making them shorts and Christa Hastie, a 24 year old computer programmer from LA, cut her long skirt in half and shared it with Rupert, who was more than enthusiastic about wearing a dress.

As the producers of the show didn't provide anything beyond the small change spent at the market and a map to camp and the water hole, tribes had to find their own food. Morgan was out of luck here, as they had no means of attaining anything. Drake, on the other hand, had purchased a spear. The alpha males, Burton Roberts, the 31 year old marketing executive from San Francisco, and Rupert became the caretakers.

But what would Survivor be without challenges, immunity, and tribal council? Back to the Pirate theme, Jeff Probst explained the tribes' first challenge, for immunity. Just as the old groups of pirates had to transport their artillery from place to place, so too would the new. Both tribes had to move a heavy canon through an obstacle course (at one point they had to take it apart and carry its pieces). The first team to cross the finish line would grasp immunity.

At first, the Drake tribe took the lead, but was closely followed by Morgan. Halfway through, three guys from Morgan (as initiated by Osten) dropped their drawers to free themselves from the restraints of clothing. On the final sprint, Drake's canon got stuck in the sand and tribe Morgan gained a hefty lead. Drake's willpower overcame the sand barrier, and just as they came back into motion, Morgan's canon got stuck only feet from the finish line. Drake passed, and won immunity (which was represented by a long staff with a decorative skull and axe fixed to the top) sending Morgan to tribal council that evening. Immediately, tribe Drake took on an overconfident air, laughing and making fun of the naked men who'd eaten their dust. If it's Morgan's turn to win next week, it would be glorious to rub it back in Drake's faces.

Back at Morgan, the reality of the evening's quest began to sink in. Five members of the tribe, Andrew Savage, the 40 year old attorney from Chicago (who'd earlier been nominated by his teammates as the leader), Darrah Johnson, the 22 year old mortician from Liberty Mississippi, our pal Osten, Ryan Opray, the 31 year old single electrician from Los Gatos, California, and the stunt cheerleader, 27 year old Tijuana Bradley from Lt. Louis, easily became an alliance and were aiming their votes at the smaller friendship of Lilly, the scout master, Ryan Shoulders, the 23 year old single produce clerk from Clarksville, TN, and Nicole Delma, the 24 year old massage therapist from Hermosa Beach, California. Nicole had felt a character conflict between herself and Tijuana and went to Lilly and Ryan S. in an attempt to advocate some votes in that direction. Can you believe this girl actually opened her big mouth about something so trivial? Does she not know anything about Survivor? It's only wise to open your mouth when you know for sure that a majority will agree. Hello?!? What were you thinking chick?

On a more positive note, Lilly, being the honest, loving, caring, and non-judgmental mother figure, felt that Nicole's request was unfounded, and took her concerns to the larger group. When Tijuana heard about Nicole's request, she calmly approached Nicole and asked if it was true. When Nicole didn't answer, the major alliance voted her out for being dishonest. And so, for lack of common sense about what happens on Survivor, Nicole Delma was the first castaway voted off of *Survivor: Pearl Islands*.

Highlights from next week include a reward challenge where a winning member may steal one item from the losing tribe's island, one castaway's confession of wanting to leave, Rupert's explosion over a lost item, and of course a desperate battle for immunity.

Survivor airs at 9:00pm Alberta time on Global (channel 7 in Calgary)

Friends: Last Season's Finale

For those who missed it, or just forget what happened, the group went to Barbados for Ross's Paleontology seminar where Monica's hair exploded 3 times its size from the humidity. Dr. David planned to propose to Phoebe, who, although still in love with another man, planned to accept. However, in the midst of his babbling, Phoebe's ex Mike (who Phoebe left because he didn't want to get married) shows up and gets the job done first. Phoebe declines, saying that she'd never wanted a proposal, just the reassurance that the relationship was going somewhere. Joey's there with Charlie (the paleontology girl Ross introduced him to), Ross is alone, and so is Rachel. After spending time apart from each other (Charlie and Ross did the Paleontology thing, and Joey and Rachel hung out trying to have fun) Joey and Charlie break up. Looking for comfort, Joey goes to Rachel, who confesses she's been having feelings for him. But, because of the complicated history between Ross (who if you don't know, is Joey's friend and Rachel's ex-husband and father of her child) and Rachel, they decide not to pursue. However, down in the lobby, Ross and Charlie are "getting together" and Joey happens to catch a glance. Joey goes back up to Rachel's room, and that's where we left off.

Canadian Idol Finale

Simple finale. No statistics or anything. Ryan Malcolm won. Enough said.

Cupid Finale

Not many watched this show, but if you did, America chose Hank. The officiator was there and Lisa's dad gave her away. But they didn't say "I do." They claimed they owed it to their loved ones to have a big formal wedding, not in front of a nationwide audience.

For Love Or Money 2 Finale

It wasn't as great as I thought it would be, but for those who missed it, Erin chose Chad. Chad chose love. And all ended happily ever after. It'll be interesting to see an update this time next year though.

If there are any other shows you want updates on, or any comments in response to my comments, please email me at abaldwin@shaw.ca and I'll see what if I'm interested or if I can clarify my opinions!

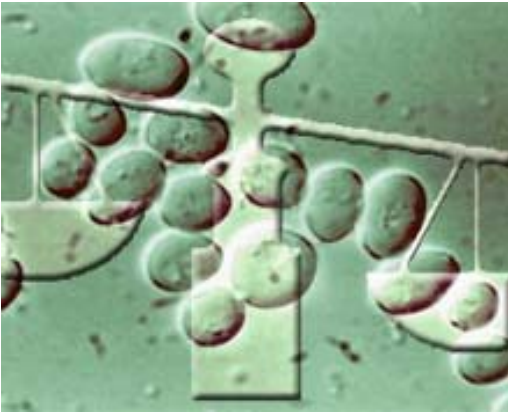


WRITE FOR THE VOICE!

Contact The Voice editor at voice@ausu.org for details on writing for The Voice. Provide a sample selection of writing and preferred genre.

DO YOU OWN YOUR BODY PARTS?

Wayne E. Benedict



Suppose your physician diagnosed you with a disease, let's say leukemia, and recommended, among other treatments, that your enlarged spleen should be removed to prolong your life. He asks you to sign a consent form, which you do, and he performs the operation, removing your body part. For seven more years, at your physician's direction and upon his representations that such visits were necessary and required for your health and well-being, he has you return for follow-ups in which he removes samples of your blood, blood serum, skin, bone marrow aspirate, and sperm (or ova, if you are a woman).

Now let's suppose that at the very beginning of the period throughout which you were receiving treatments from your physician, he discovered an anomaly in your cells, one with great potential commercial value if properly developed through genetic research. You learn that he knew this information before he removed your spleen and throughout the entire time he treated you, but he failed to inform you of this fact. Nor did he tell you that he had been utilizing your cells for research and had in fact applied for a patent on a cell-line established from your T-lymphocytes. Six months after your last doctor-patient visit, your physician and several other parties (a research scientist and the regents of a university) were granted a patent on the product whose genesis was in fact your bodily tissues—tissues removed without your *informed* consent. The potential profits for the holders of the patent could run into the tens or hundreds of millions of dollars. Would you sue? If so, on what grounds?

Does this sound like fiction to you? Would you be surprised to know that the facts that I have outlined above come out of an actual court-case heard before the Supreme Court of California; a seminal case that has been studied and debated since it was published in July 1990; one that has had far-reaching implications to scientific ethics and human rights. The case, which has persuasive but not precedent-setting weight in Canada, determined whether a person (patient in this context) has a legally protected property interest in his or her own body and its products. As a matter of fact, I am in the University Of Saskatchewan College Of Law Library studying it for tomorrow's Property Law class right now... Much of what follows comes from the actual published decision of the court:

In the actual case John Moore, the plaintiff, underwent treatment for hairy-cell leukemia at the Medical Center of the University of California at Los Angeles beginning October 5, 1976. After hospitalizing Moore and withdrawing extensive amounts of blood, bone marrow aspirate, and other bodily substances, Moore's physician, Dr. Golde, confirmed the hairy-cell leukemia diagnosis. At that time all of the defendants, including Golde, were aware that certain blood products and blood components were of great value in a number of commercial and scientific efforts and that access to a patient whose blood contained these substances would provide competitive, commercial, and scientific advantages.

On October 8, 1976, Dr. Golde recommended that Moore's spleen be removed. He informed Moore that he had reason to fear for his life, and that the proposed splenectomy operation was necessary to slow down the progress of his disease. Based upon Golde's representations, Moore signed a written consent form authorizing the splenectomy. Surgeons at UCLA Medical Center removed Moore's spleen on October 20, 1976. Moore returned to the UCLA Medical Center several times between November 1976 and September 1983 at Golde's direction. On each of these visits Golde withdrew additional samples of blood, blood serum, skin, bone marrow aspirate, and sperm. On each occasion Moore traveled to the UCLA Medical Center from his home in Seattle because he had been told that the procedures were to be performed only there and only under Golde's direction.

Throughout the period of time that Moore was under Golde's care and treatment, the defendants were actively involved in a number of activities which they concealed from Moore. They were conducting research on Moore's cells and planned to benefit financially and competitively by exploiting the cells and their exclusive access to the cells by virtue of Golde's ongoing physician- patient relationship.

Sometime before August 1979, Golde had established a cell line from Moore's T-lymphocytes. On January 30, 1981, the regents of the University of California applied for a patent on the cell line, listing Golde and another researcher named Quan as inventors. By virtue of an established policy the regents, Golde, and Quan would share in any royalties or profits arising out of the patent. The patent was issued on March 20, 1984, naming Golde and Quan as the inventors of the cell line and the regents as the assignee of the patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,438,032 (Mar. 20, 1984)). John Moore was completely excluded from any claim on any potential products developed from his cells.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Moore launched a court action against his former physician and the other co-defendants. He did so on 13 grounds, all except one of which were thrown out of court for various reasons. The only cause of action that the Supreme Court of California ultimately recognized was based on the physician's failure to disclose such interests that may give rise to a cause of action for performing medical procedures without informed consent or breach of fiduciary duty. The court's decision on that aspect of the case is not too surprising; however, its dismissal of the plaintiff's charge of conversion is.

Moore had claimed that the defendant's actions amounted to the tort of conversion, which is loosely defined in the common law as a tort of wrongful possession or disposition of another's property as if it were one's own. A "tort" involves, whether intentional or negligent, a violation of a legal duty, imposed by statute, contract or otherwise, owed by the defendant to the person injured (the plaintiff). Without such a legal duty, any injury is *damnum absque injuria* - injury without wrong (damages can not be claimed). In order to establish a conversion, a plaintiff must establish an actual interference with his ownership or right of possession (property rights), and when a plaintiff neither has title to the property alleged to have been converted, nor possession thereof, he cannot maintain an action for conversion.

The majority of the court found that John Moore did not have ownership rights, or the right of possession, over his cells once they had left his body. In other words he held no proprietary rights in his own body parts and his conversion argument failed. So, in answer to the question raised by this article's title, according to the Supreme Court of California at least, a person's body parts, once removed, are not personal property under the law and are not the basis upon which proprietary actions in tort or otherwise can be sustained. It should be noted that there were strong dissenting opinions from a minority of the court. You can read the full decision of the court at http://biotech.law.lsu.edu/cases/consent/Moore_v_Regents.htm

Wayne E. Benedict has a varied career history and strong links to the Canadian labour movement. He is working part-time toward his Bachelor of Human Resources and Labour Relations at Athabasca University. He is a fulltime first-year student of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. For a more detailed writer bio, see The Voice writers' feature page, at: <http://www.ausu.org/voice/authors/authorfull.php?ID=7>. If you would like to send article-feedback to Wayne, he can be reached at wayneben@sasktel.net

Missing out on all the deals?

www.ausu.org/services

Get an AU ID card, today!



FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

Today I Witnessed a Miracle

By Debbie Jabbour



The day started out no different than any other. I had to drive my youngest daughter to work, then I stopped in at both of my offices. The first was my newest place of work, and I spent a short time there before heading to the AUSU office where I had a meeting with several other councillors and an AU rep to discuss the new student handbook we will be publishing this upcoming year. We went for a late lunch after the meetings, and then I left to go pick up another daughter to take her to her ultrasound appointment.

Something I've not yet shared with Voice readers is the fact that in a few months I'll be a grandmother for the first time.

My daughter gave the news to me the day after my graduation, and although a new life is a wonderful cause for celebration, I've been ambivalent for a variety of reasons. I tell myself that my daughter is not ready to become a mother - but perhaps it's me who is not ready to become a grandmother!

Even though I've not quite come to terms with the pregnancy, I've been working hard to help my daughter. She knows that she has my unconditional moral support and help wherever and whenever needed. During her move last month to the trailer park (see Voice article "[Trailer Park Blues](#)"), I spent several weeks doing the "dirty" work, the paint stripping, the bleaching, the oven cleaning, the painting, the insecticide spraying, etc. - jobs that she should not be doing while pregnant due to harmful vapours. We've talked a lot about the whole process, and I've offered to pay the costs of a midwife should she choose to go that route (I had my younger two via homebirth). She recently raided my closet for "maternity clothes" - in other words, clothes of mine that are several sizes larger than what she normally wears and are therefore perfect for that difficult in-between transitional growing time. And of course I've promised her my services as a permanent babysitter, on call 24/7.

When she had called me last night and asked if I might be able to pick her up at work and drive her across the city to her ultrasound appointment, I immediately agreed and arranged my schedule accordingly. As she got in the car, I complimented her on how attractive she looked in my borrowed suit. Her response was that she felt very uncomfortable, since the ultrasound required that she drink 8 glasses of water! I could sympathize, since I had been through several ultrasounds myself, for other reasons. The technology was not as advanced when I had my children, and it was not until my last born that I had a pregnancy ultrasound. It was very early in the pregnancy, and I just recalled seeing a few grainy still screen images of something that the technician said was the fetus, but that to me really didn't look like anything discernable.

As we drove, we talked about pregnancy stuff. This was her first time having an ultrasound and she didn't really know what to expect. I shared my limited knowledge of the process and reassured her that it was fairly simple, from what I recalled. She told me her partner would be meeting her there, but she asked if I wanted to hang around and wait, perhaps even go in with her if this was allowed. I had to go pick up my youngest from work, but I agreed that if there was enough time I would hang around. I wasn't really thinking of it as much of a big deal, just a regular old ultrasound.

After she was called in, her partner and I sat in the waiting room, making small talk. Finally the attendant came out and called us in. The room was small, cramped and stuffy. My daughter was reclining on the raised bed beside the ultrasound screen. The technician squirted a pattern of electrical conductant gel on her stomach, and in the ultraviolet glow of the screen it looked like some weird blue tattoo decorating my daughter's skin. Then

she placed the ultrasound receptor on the gel, and turned our attention to the screen. There it was! Not the grainy, unclear pictures I expected from my own ultrasound - but a complete, moving, living, breathing baby!

My daughter immediately joked that the baby looked just like her, and I agreed that the dark eyes were the same. Of course in reality, the baby looked somewhat like an alien from a Hollywood movie, and we commented that we now understood where such notions came from. The ultrasound provides a transparent image that looks through the object, similar to an x-ray, and certain body parts stand out. The overall shape was very clear, but for the untrained eye it was hard to determine all the details. The head was oversized and balloon-shaped with two large black spots for eyes, and bones in the arms and legs could be clearly identified. Although the technician could determine the baby's sex, my daughter asked not to be told, so we alternated between describing the baby as a he and as a she.

Then the baby started to move. Miniature arms, with fully-formed long fingers, stretched and reached, and little legs kicked and swam as they bent at the knee then extended full length. The tiny alien-like face turned directly towards us, as if acknowledging our presence, staring at us intently with equal curiosity, wanting to know us just as much as we wanted to know her/him. Although these burning, dark eyes remained focused towards us, the rest of the baby's body did not stop moving. We were stunned at the power and strength of the arm and leg movements, since my daughter could not feel the intensity inside, and she commented that the baby was moving like either a dancer or a boxer.

We just stared at the screen, fascinated by what we were seeing, incredulous that this beautiful, living creature was actually visible to us through this technological miracle. Each time the baby turned, we could see the tiny heart palpitate rapidly, the umbilical cord floating above the belly button, and little hands and fingers stretching and moving constantly, reaching, seeking, and stretching as if giving us a baby gymnastics performance. I asked the technician how big the baby was and she flipped briefly to a screen full of statistics. She advised that the length of the body was about 12 centimeters, and the weight about 1½ pounds, normal for about five months of gestation.

Although we could have watched forever, after a few minutes it seemed like he/she had seen enough of us and began to turn away. At one point he/she even brought her thumb up to the lips as if preparing to suck it, but then appeared to decide better of it, instead turning his/her head and body to the side. Although the technician kept trying to get a good view, the baby turned away, still stretching and kicking, but no longer interested in us.

All too soon, our time was up and the technician removed the ultrasound receptor and turned off the screen. After a few moments she returned with a picture, which my daughter was allowed to keep. We looked at it, still bemused with a sense of awe at having seen something we were not really intended by nature to see, this alien creature that is alive and growing within the protection of my daughter's body. In those few moments in that ultrasound room, we bonded, and I walked out of there with a profound emotion of marvel and wonder at having the privilege to know this child in this way.

In a few short months we will have the opportunity to hold him or her in our arms, and all too soon the child will become an adult. But I will never forget the miracle I saw this afternoon.

Debbie is a native Edmontonian, and a single parent with four daughters. She has worked as a professional musician for most of her life, and has enjoyed a rich variety of life experiences - with many more to come! Debbie is working towards an eventual doctorate in psychology, and currently serves as the president of the Athabasca University Students Union.



Here is another submission to our list of provincial quirks, which began with Wayne Benedict's article two weeks ago. Anyone who has a list of their own to contribute can send it to voice@ausu.org

Saskatchewan vs Ontario

I lived in Regina, Saskatchewan, for 14 years. Now I am back in Ontario. Here are some differences that I have noticed:

- The sky in Saskatchewan is big and blue. You can see it all the time. The sky is harder to see in Ontario. So far, it's been blue all the time.
- In Saskatchewan, drivers will stop on the road and chat. In Ottawa, drivers are always stopped on the road, but no one chats.
- In Ontario, we have an all inclusive drivers license. Each time you change your address, you get a new license. I've changed my address twice. I haven't got my first license yet. It's not looking hopeful that the second one will get there either.
- In Saskatchewan, you can buy beer at the liquor store. In Ontario, you have to go to the Beer Store.
- In Ottawa they used to cheer for the Black & White Riders. However, everyone in Ottawa still talks about the Green & White Riders, better known as the "Roughies!". Go Riders!

Teresa Neuman, Ottawa, Ontario

Got something to add? Mail voice@ausu.org.

Every second counts...

Phone first!



Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number right away at the first signs and signals of heart attack and stroke. Don't wait even a few minutes.

Phone first!

...and become part of the Chain of Survival™



To learn more
www.heartandstroke.ca
1-888-473-4636



I was intrigued by the new album from the Dandy Warhols because it takes its title from a book by one of my favourite authors, Kurt Vonnegut. I hoped to find some of Vonnegut's erudite sarcasm and snickering observations on the digressions of religion, society, and humanity at large.

Actually, *Welcome to the Monkeyhouse* - the album - is nothing like the books of Kurt Jr.

Vonnegut is a literary slap in the face - his prose is at times the philosophical equivalent of hardcore porn: machinations and motivations are laid bare and displayed under floodlamps, accentuating all the lurid details, rendering them a little ridiculous for all this clarity. Vonnegut does not craft absurdity, he reveals it in a way that is simultaneously hilarious and distressing. He is an ice cube down the back of your pants, tin foil on your fillings, and a department store mirror under fluorescent lights. He shows you things you aren't sure that you want to see.

The Dandy Warhols, on the other hand, will lull you into comfortable ambiguity, but you'll probably enjoy the trip, unless the sometimes crass digital accoutrements don't jar you back to reality. There are attempts at profundity, but attempts are all they are. The Warhols are more like slipping into a steaming bath... any brief discomfort is quickly replaced by sleepy contentment. Unfortunately, I think the intent was for the album to be upbeat!

The title track, really just a brief intro to the first single *We Used to be Friends*, does take a shot at waxing Vonnegutian with the following lines:

*Wire is coming back again / Elastica got sued by them
When Michael Jackson dies / We're covering Blackbird
And won't it be absurd, then / when no one knows what song they just heard*

Just as the only thing ironic about Alanis Morissette's *Ironic* is that it contains no irony, these lyrics are absurd only because they find absurdity where there is nothing more than a cause for shrugging your shoulders and muttering about the passage of time.

Musically, the entire album has this sort of muted, pastel feel, most noticeable in the layered, hushed vocals which often sound forced and become irritating only two songs in. The vocals only rise above a whisper in "Plan A" and "The Dandy Warhols Love Almost Everyone" where notes of Police-era Sting break through the New Order monotony. Most of the instruments sound soft and harmless, as if all of the sharp edges have been carefully filed down. The synths are the one exception, and by contrast they can be overwhelming. I found myself wishing I could slip some ice down the pants of singer Courtney Taylor-Taylor to get him to break out of whisper-mode for a moment. The vocals on this album make Simon and Garfunkle sound like testosterone junkies.

The band's namesake, quirky Warhol, purveyor of pop art and the king of kitsch, provides a more apt comparison. The Dandy's make music that draws from almost every successful pop act of the last 3 decades, homogenized into a familiar but sometimes indistinct funky pop mass. Overall the whole production sounds like it might blow away in a strong wind. It has the somewhat frustrating restraint of a Celtic jig. The legs are

moving, but the arms are stiff and immobile. The Warhols want to dance, but they don't want to mess up their hair.

You would expect that with a production team of Nick Rhodes (Keyboardist for Duran Duran and Arcadia) and Tony Visconti (T. Rex), and Nile Rodgers of Chic lending guitar to one track, that this album might contain some of the slick, snappy, glitter-rock hooks of those era-defining bands.

It's no surprise that the melody of "You Were the Last High" is very reminiscent of early Duran Duran, but with a hint of Valium. The song is co-written by lead Lemonhead, Evan Dando, which goes a long way toward explaining the rather anaemic overtones.

"We Used to be Friends", the first single and possibly the best track, is nearly as undeniable as T-Rex's "Get It On (Bang a Gong)", but where that song insisted that you get up and move, the Warhol's version sort of slinks in a little half-hearted, and urges you to move a little. It's also a little misleading for a first single, because it's the most lively track on the album. The guitars on this track - and indeed all of the album - are mostly obscured under syrupy keyboards and soft vocal harmonies that attempt to recapture the T. Rex magic but mostly don't work very well. Actually this track prompted me to listen to some old T. Rex, Duran Duran and Chic albums, all of which still sound great.

That said, there are a number of high points on the *Welcome to the Monkeyhouse*.

"Plan A" begins with the lilting backdrop to a medieval fair, then forays into early Crowded House without the hyper-enthusiasm. The song is enhanced by an infectious bass line and a gilding of bright and funky guitar. "I Am a Scientist" contains lots of "Woo Woo's" which are delivered cheekily, but with considerably less gusto than in Blur's definitive "Woo Hoo" track, "Song 2".

"The Dandy Warhols Love Almost Everyone" has a fun, 60s go-go dancing feel that makes you want to get up and move, but it's a little unconvincing and slightly laconic, again thanks to the vocals and slightly muffled guitars. It's a fun and infectious (and very brief) pop rock track, snugly wrapped a cozy blanket. "Insincere Because I", on the other hand, is dreary and simply annoying, and by the time you get to "I am Sound", these slow paced, whispered, flower-pop songs start to really irritate. "Heavenly", though, picks up the pace with a terrific, full-bodied chorus that breaks like sunshine through the melancholy verses.

The Dandy's have been described as one of the world's last rock bands. It's not an accurate appraisal, simply because the band can't lay claim to rock territory. The Warhols owe much more to Brit pop, dance pop, and the lighter psychedelic pop rock of the 60s. The downplaying of guitar and prominence of synths and electronic beats enhance the overall poppiness of this album, which is distilled from the every great pop song since Billboard started keeping track. From the Beatles to Blur, it's all in here.

The result is not terribly diverse. In fact every song on the album sounds like it is part of a continuing theme. That's not entirely a bad thing, but it does get a little old over the fifty minutes that the album spans. It's a good album with a number of great ideas, but too much of the same throughout, and it all too clearly reveals its unfulfilled potential throughout.



The Net Nerd's Profiles



Need Study Resources and Term Paper Help? Try...

www.support4learning.org

If you have question about your career or education future, this is the site to visit. It has a comprehensive, if somewhat intimidating, amount of information. The resources are divided into eight categories: Careers, community, counseling, education, health, jobsearch, money and reference. It is a very well organized website, but it still took me a few minutes to navigate, again because there is so much to see.

For example, I first clicked on the heading *education*. From there I found 2 different sub headings: *Education Training and Learning* and *Other Resources*. Under those, there were 42 different links. Next I clicked on the *Concept Mapping* link, because there was a pretty, bright yellow button beside it that said "new" (I like shiny things). From there the website pointed out other headings where I might find useful information (how polite of them, I almost expected to be invited for tea). Scrolling down a bit, I find everything I wanted to know about concept and mind mapping in the form of 14 other links. I clicked on the simple title "mind mapping," which took me to a handy tutorial from a James Cook University webpage.

This website has great links and information. If you have some time to kill and want to find stuff about study skills, term paper research, career searches, and how to bake a pumpkin pie, www.support4learning.org is for you.

Neat Stuff: They have a really comprehensive religious calendar with religious holidays and observances for twelve different faiths. Rastafarians take note, the Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie is coming up November 2.

Not So Neat Stuff: The sheer volume of information makes navigating it a time-consuming process. I also got side tracked quite a bit checking out other things unrelated to my search. Also, since this site is based out of the U.K, some of the information may not be pertinent to Canada.

Rating: *****/5 I broke the cardinal rule for critics and gave this site a full five star rating. Its only shortcoming - too much information - is more like an advantage, and I loved that there were virtually no corporate ads (with the exception of Amazon, but they're everywhere. I think I saw an Amazon banner on my communion wafer).

Too much studying, not enough time for dishes? Try

www.mygrocerychecklist.com and www.flylady.com

These are some handy websites for all those wannabe domestic gods and goddesses out there. When we spend most of our day reading, studying, doing drafts for term papers and watching re-runs of "Taxi"(the finest work Danza has done to date), the rest of our life sometimes gets a little *ahem* disorganized, shall we say? These websites are designed to help us in that department.

www.mygorcerychecklist.com is pretty straightforward. If any of you are like me, and end up with 3 jars of paprika and a freezer full of pizza pops, a grocery list is a necessity. On the first page, items one would find in a grocery store are listed in categories. Just go through and check off what you need, then click *format my checklist* and a printable, customized grocery list is made up for you. I'm not going to bother with the usual ratings etc. for this website because it's more like a handy web tool than a resource.

A friend of mine, whose house looked unusually clean lately, gave me her secret so now I will share it with you: www.flylady.com. This site was developed by Marla Cilley, a disciple of the SHE (Sidetracked Home Executive) system, which was developed by Pam Young and Peggy Jones.

This website is more like a club than a port of information. When you join you are e-mailed routines for cleaning your house. You are gradually introduced to the whole flylady system by a series of what they call "baby steps" and you, as a new member, are a "flybaby."

You begin with the basics, which are: 1. Get dressed all the way to your shoes, 2. Make up your bed, 3. Clean your kitchen sink until it sparkles. Then you are given certain tasks to do everyday (such as the "27 fling boogie") by e-mail reminders.

Eventually you are supposed to have a daily, weekly and monthly cleaning/organizing system. Each part of the house is divided into a zone, and you have one zone to clean for each week. Flylady.com is a good website if you really have no clue where to start.

Neat Stuff: Marla really does a fantastic job of web writing. She comes across as warm and funny and like she really cares about her "flyladies." She also posts little words of wisdom on each page like, "You are never behind. Jump in where you are."

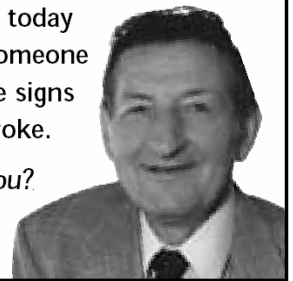
Not So Neat Stuff: Despite being an organization about organization the site is really disorganized (say that five times fast!). Maybe it's not even disorganized, but information is repeated so often on many different pages it seems redundant and messy.

Rating:/5** I gave this site a low rating because cleaning your house should not have to be a life changing decision, although there are some good concepts there. Again, this program might be useful if you no idea where to start. Flylady.com overcomplicated the task of housekeeping. My advice, leave the dishes in the sink and go see a movie if you want, and if you really need advice about cleaning: If it's messy, pick it up.

Walter Gretzky, Stroke Survivor

I'm alive today
because someone
knew the signs
of a stroke.

Do you?



STROKE WARNING SIGNS

WEAKNESS

Sudden weakness, numbness
or tingling in the face,
arm or leg

TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden temporary
loss of speech or trouble
understanding speech

VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden loss of vision,
particularly in one eye, or
double vision

HEADACHE

Sudden severe
and unusual headache

DIZZINESS

Sudden loss of balance,
especially with any of the
above signs

Call 911
or your medical
emergency number
immediately.



1-888-HSF-INFO
(1-888-473-4636)
www.heartandstroke.ca

AUSU THIS MONTH

Special Bylaw AGM to be held October 15 1800 MST. For details go to: www.ausu.org.

AUSU IN PERSON DISCUSSION GROUPS

Getting together physically with fellow AU students adds to your university experience. Other students will be able to understand and relate to the joys and frustrations of distance learning. It's also a way to stay abreast of information relating to AU and the Athabasca University Students' Union.

See the Coffee Groups web page on the AUSU site, at <http://www.ausu.org/coffee> for a list of groups.

Anyone interested in starting up a group in your area (anywhere in Canada, from small towns to major centres) please contact SANDRA at smoore@ausu.org.

CHAT WITH AUSU ONLINE

If you have a question for AUSU, or would like to get to know your council, drop by the chat-room [accessible through the 'Message Forums' option on the AUSU home page www.ausu.org. You will need an AUSU web site account.] **Times are MST**

Mondays at 8:00 PM Councillor Karl Low

More chat times to be posted soon...

FEATURED TUTOR ON THE AUSU WEB SITE

Petra Spires
French Language

Petra Spires has been a French tutor at Athabasca University for the past three years. She has students in five levels of language study and finds it rewarding to follow her student's progress throughout the duration of their studies. She particularly enjoys having contact with students from across the nation (and continent).

Read more at: <http://www.ausu.org/tutor/index.php>



NEEDED – VOLUNTEER MENTORS FOR NEW STUDENTS

Do you remember your first few months at AU? Do you remember all the questions you had and the confusions you encountered? Every month at AU there are close to 1500 new registrations and these new students will be in the same boat you were once in. How about helping these students out by offering to be an AUSU mentor? AUSU mentors are "experienced" AU students who are willing to provide a little guidance and support to new AU students. If you are interested in participating in this new venture of AUSU's or if you'd like more information please contact Sandra Moore at smoore@ausu.org

THE VOICE FICTION FEATURE

Poems by Sara Kinninmont

In the Arms of Dionysus

I sat on the rock wall
my eyes stinging from the salt in the air
the Aegean showing off
below me

Demonstrating its force
throwing itself against the rocks
for any or all who cared
to see

Like most things of great beauty
the showy display is seen
as stunning and
not simply

attention getting

As I watch
the shades of aqua and azure
swirl and pound and foam
and whirlpool

I understand

the awe and powerlessness
Ariadne must have felt
while in the arms
of Dionysus

Missing Pieces

(for Paula Slavicky)

Her smile leaked out
through her feet
her voice
dead
in her throat

standing in a puddle she
hangs up the phone
leftovers of joy
slowly sinking in
to the beige wall to wall carpeting while

on the other end
a friend
has to pick herself up
piece by
piece, as though

someone smashed
a treasured family heirloom

smashed
beyond recognition
pieces missing

Pieces
she holds in her palm
sharp edges cutting yet
not a twinge
through her numbness

tucking them in her pocket
saving them
to be put back

together

someday

The Voice buys fiction in all forms and genres. Contact voice@ausu.org for more information. Or, you may wish to submit your fiction for the Voice Writing Contest. See this issue for details and submission guidelines.



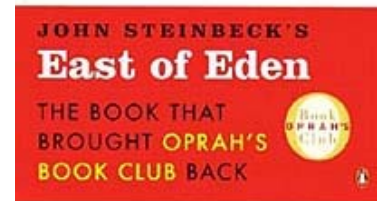
East of Eden Book Review

By Laura Seymour

East of Eden is my first review of an Oprah Book Club selection, and I've only read one other book she chose. Most of them seem to be overloaded with description and that leaves me in "word shock." Glancing through some of her other selected books, I found it took an hour to digest a sentence and a day to fully grasp a paragraph. It just wasn't worth it.



East of Eden caught my eye since it's a classic American epic by John Steinbeck. I've never read Steinbeck and I wanted to expand my reading horizons. I opened the book for a quick "oh it's 25 % off" look at Superstore and stood amazed at the description that opened the book:



"The Salinas Valley is in Northern California. It is a long narrow swale between two ranges of mountains, and the Salinas River winds and twists up the center until it falls at last into the Monterey Bay ..."

What was odd to me after finishing the book was that this was probably the weakest descriptions it contained. Steinbeck carves out the most amazingly adept descriptions but instead of overloading me from the first word, John throws in a punch of exquisite description when I wasn't expecting it.

The land isn't the only subject that he observes with such amazing ability. He sees the people, the history of America and human motives so clearly that he could be a famous psychologist. Unfortunately, he died in 2002 at 100 years of age!

The story begins by following the grueling lives of American pioneers and proceeds quickly enough to show that these characters aren't super important but that they matter as background.

It goes on to carve out the life of our first generation of characters, Cyrus Trask. He is a failure as a soldier, and a thief and a liar, but as a fan of war - he is the best. Cyrus eventually passes on leaving his sons his land and home and a fortune in stolen finance. The sons, Adam and Charles, have little need to work. Since Adam is regularly being duped and beaten by his brother Charles, the family fortune helps Adam to have an easier survival.

Adam and Charles live under the same roof for a while, at times being cordial but much of the time Charles aims his fury at Adam. Charles is angry, bitter, and cheap. When he dies, years later, he has hoarded his money and left it all for his brother. Adam almost doesn't get the money, since he hasn't spoken to Charles in years. The lawyers find him by a stroke of last minute luck.

Adam marries and has two children by a woman who makes about 95% of my flesh crawl - I think the other 5% is missing nerve endings! She is a brilliantly evil character by the name of Catherine, and also later known as Kate. She arrives on Adam and Charles' doorstep as a bloody pulp, beaten within an inch of her life. She survives because of Adam's kindness. Charles, however, can see through her feminine charms. She hates that, but not enough to leave him alone. On her wedding night she crawls into bed with Charles and gets herself

unhappily pregnant, just before Adam moves his new bride to California. She hasn't wanted to be there at all, but Adam's happy in his fictional world and has decided that she just needs to see how lovely California is.

Soon after Catherine gives birth to her two boys, she starts to hatch a plan to get out. She doesn't want the children so what does she do? Why, shoot your husband of course! Adam is shot in the shoulder and Catherine promptly walks out on him never choosing to see her husband or children again. Since Adam is all but killed by this incident, she should be concerned. True to psychopathic mentality – she couldn't care less.

Thanks to great writing we follow the family, the crazy wife and their children to an amazing ending.

The book is filled with remarkable insight, prose and tidbits of life observations.

I have a huge place in my heart for this book and I hope some of you will enjoy this great classic. Check out the public library for a copy, curl up and enjoy.

Laura Seymour first published herself, at age 8. She has since gone on to publish a cookbook for the medical condition Candida. She is working toward her B.A. (Psyc).



TO SAVE SPECIES, YOU HAVE TO SAVE FORESTS.

© 1998 WWF © WWF Registered Trademark Photo: Giant kelp forest © Chuck Davis/Tidal Flats, Ltd.

go to wwf.ca/marine

Even the ones underwater. This giant kelp forest off the coast of B.C. is more diverse than a rainforest. Sadly, it's not protected from the harmful practices of industry. In fact, 99.99% of Canada's waters are unprotected. When will Canada start protecting our oceans? With your help, we'll get Ottawa to act now. Call **1.800.26.PANDA**.



CANADIAN FED WATCH!

NEWS ACROSS THE NATION...

By Karl Low



More Buildings in Manitoba

The Manitoba Provincial Government is pleased to announce the opening of a new Health Studies Complex at Brandon University. Costing the government five million dollars, this building will house multiple programs including the bachelor of nursing program which is being transferred from the University of Manitoba, a psychiatric nursing program, an aboriginal counselling program and two post-diploma programs.

This investment is just part of over 70 million dollars that the Manitoba government has devoted to "university capital projects," or in other words, buildings and renovations. While it is wonderful to see governments devoting any extra money to post-secondary education, it seems that it still is not understood that a university building is not an education.

Even more maddening from my point of view is that the designers can't even claim to be unaware of the alternatives, as Manitoba's Family Services and Housing Minister Drew Caldwell pointed out that the facility has a distance education classroom with audio and video links. Just to be clear on this, this means they've built a specific room that has connections for receiving and broadcasting audio and video over a distance – somewhat like the computer you're reading this on now has connections that allow it to, at the very least, receive audio and video signals. There are also a number of other technologies you may have that allow this, such as your television, telephone, and radio, all of which can be used to great effect as shown by Athabasca University's own relationship with Canadian Learning Television and Alberta's Access channel.

So a portion of that five million dollars the Manitoba government spent went on creating a space where students can do the exact same type of things they could easily do from home or the public library. What I can not understand is why Athabasca University is not out there drumming its cause to every Provincial Government across the land. AU can teach any number of students much more cheaply than a traditional brick and mortar institution, in addition to not requiring students to actually move to the locale of the institution, thus allowing them to continue living and working their normal lives.

You'd think that governments looking to save money would be falling all over themselves to encourage post-secondary students to attend AU rather than forcing them to fund yet another building.

First BSE, Now Hoof-In-Mouth

It seems hard times continue to plague Alberta's Premier Ralph Klein. As you've no doubt already heard on the news, Premier Klein was speaking at a meeting of governors in Montana regarding the single Alberta cow who was found to have mad cow disease when he claimed that "any self-respecting rancher would have shot, shovelled, and shut-up." This is the same Premier who got into a drunken shouting match with a man at a homeless shelter, telling him to "get a job." As the story unfolded we learned that the man actually did have a job, and was one of the "working poor" that do not seem to exist in Klein's world.

You would think that Premier Klein might regret speaking in haste, then, at a governors meeting when so many ranchers in Alberta desperately need the borders to be fully opened. However, in a recent press release Klein not only expresses no regrets, he does not even apologize to Alberta ranchers for any harm that his out of context remarks might cause.

In fact, Premier Klein isn't even worried about it. At a recent question and answer session at the University of Montana, Klein confidently asserted that "They aren't going to fire me," when questioned about his constituents reaction to his remark.

Sadly, he's probably right. Even though a politician's primary job is to ensure the best possible outcome for his constituents – a job done entirely through the power of his words – Klein's continual demonstrations of foot-in-mouth never seem to earn him that boot-in-ass from Albertans that he so richly deserves.

Maybe it's something in the meat..

A native Calgarian, Karl is perpetually nearing the completion of his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Information Studies. He also works for the Computer Sciences Virtual Helpdesk for Athabasca University and plans to eventually go on to tutor and obtain his Master's Degree.

Taking tuition to heart Ontario NDP leader vows to stand for students

Mark B. Thomas, Interrobang

LONDON, ONT. (CUP) -- The leader of the Ontario NDP wants to lower the province's tuition by 10 per cent. As part of his campaign tour for next month's provincial election, party leader Howard Hampton and two local candidates stopped off at Fanshawe College to spread the word of their "PublicPower" platform. Also on the New Democrat Party platform is increasing minimum wage, decreasing drivers' insurance rates and putting \$2 billion aside for education.

Underlying all of these proposals is the belief of NDP members that Ernie Eves and his Tories have failed Ontario's students. "For the past eight years the conservatives have used teachers and our public schools as essentially a political football," Hampton said. "They've cut \$2 billion out of our elementary and secondary schools. That money must be restored and we're going to do it."

Hampton says he is going to establish an Education Assistance Fund – a \$2 billion coffer devoted specifically to education that will be subsidized, in part, by an Educational Excellence surtax on citizens who make over \$100,000 per year. Hampton says, if elected, the plan will take effect immediately.

"First of all, you're going to see about a \$200 per year savings on your tuition fees," he said. Privatization of once-public services is also a target of the NDP platform. "They've gone down the road of privatization and this has been disastrous for health care, hydro, and social services," said Patti Dalton, MPP candidate for the London West riding. "[All of this] has harmed the majority of the population of Ontario."

Dalton also said that access to post-secondary education in Ontario has decreased dramatically under the Tories. "[Under Tory leadership] the tuition fees for undergraduate programs have gone up 150 per cent and 800 per cent for professional programs," she said. Dalton went on to note that the availability of financial aid is decreasing.

"It is our commitment to make post-secondary education or job training available to all students so they have equal access no matter what their financial situation is." Irene Mathyssen, NDP candidate for the Fanshawe riding, says that although their plan calls for increased spending on public services most people will not feel the pinch. "We are going to re-introduce the corporate income tax the Tories disposed of in 1997 to help fund public services," said Mathyssen. "Corporations were doing just fine before the Tories cut the tax and they'll do just fine with it again," she said.



Dear Sandra,

I'm a first time parent going through the horrible threes! I've always heard the expression "terrible twos" but when my daughter was two everything was great. Since turning three, however, she has become a constant state of irritation for me. I don't seem to cut her sandwiches the right way and I always pick the wrong clothes. She is always whining. Is it me as a parent? Was I too lenient on her in the beginning and have I now spoiled her? Please help me.

Irritated in Sherwood Park

Dear Irritated,

There is no harder job in the world than that of a parent of a preschool child (I haven't done the teenage years yet, so I could be wrong). "This too shall pass" should be your mantra right now. Remember in childbirth when you kept telling yourself "this pain has to end sometime"? Well, this pain too will end sometime. The whining will stop, but it will be replaced with other annoying things your child will do; that's the joy of parenthood.

However, do not assume that your child's whining is because of something you did or because your child is "difficult", "stubborn" or just a "pain in the butt". Accept your daughter's negative behavior as one of the many phases she will go through. Keep in mind as a three year old she is making the transition from "baby" into "child" and she is trying to achieve a sense of independence. These transitional phases can be tough on even the most easygoing preschooler, so always try to stay one step ahead. Don't sweat her whining. Give her choices and this may help alleviate her frustrations over the lack of control she has over her life. Before you cut the sandwich ask her, "Do you want your sandwich cut in half or in triangles?" Before you choose her clothes give her a choice: "Do you want to wear your pink pants or your purple dress?"

Most importantly "catch her being good"! Reinforcing the behaviour you want (e.g. her asking in a non-whiny voice for something or her choosing her own clothes for the day) works better than constantly harping on her for the behaviours you do not want her to repeat.

Check out the Student Mom's Club under the Groups and Clubs heading on the AUSU home page at www.ausu.org Sometimes talking to other mothers going through the same stages can help you realize that your child is in fact normal and not the worst child in the world.

Sandra

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! TELL ME YOUR TROUBLES. YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY IS ASSURED.

This column is for entertainment only. Sandra is not a professional counsellor, but is an AU student who would like to give personal advice about school and life to her peers. Please forward your questions to Sandra care of smoore@ausu.org

Scholarships going to waste *Universities struggle to give money away*

Ginny Collins, Central Bureau

REGINA (CUP) -- Thousands of dollars in scholarship money are going to waste in Saskatchewan because students are not applying. Although student loans and financial debt are a reality for many students, universities and colleges, like Campion College at the University of Regina, are often hard pressed to give their money away. "We certainly make a big effort to get them out there," said Barbara deVlieger, college registrar. "But sometimes there will only be one applicant or none."

Despite their efforts, Campion was unable to give away two scholarships of \$1,000 this year because no one applied. Another scholarship worth \$1000 had only one applicant who received it automatically. Many of their other scholarships had very few applicants. According to a study performed in 2002, approximately 40 per cent of students in Saskatchewan receive student loans and have an average debt of \$13,582 dollars each. DeVlieger said that despite this financial need, many students don't apply for scholarships because they believe money is only given to those with the top marks. Qualifications for some scholarships are often very specific, so few students fall into the available categories, she said.

Crystal Palmer, a fourth-year arts student at the University of Regina, owes around \$1500 in student loans from this year alone. She said she has not applied for a scholarship since high school. "I don't know, I just thought the competition would be too high and I wouldn't have a chance," said Palmer, when asked why she has not applied for a scholarship since entering university.

She said she has never seen the scholarships advertised and she does not have time to go looking for them. "It's not always just academic, some will say that financial need is the primary qualification," said Barbara deVlieger. She also stressed that community involvement and leadership are essential qualifications.

"In my opinion only good students get scholarships, not normal students," said Aattie Auang, an international student from China. "Too high for me." Auang arrived from China over a year ago but said she has never known the details of applying for scholarships at the University of Regina. She said she does not plan to apply. "Not now anyways, maybe later," she said.

This year the University of Regina issued a booklet detailing undergraduate awards so students would have easier access to the information. The university's financial aid office believes this system is probably going to help. "Our system here is a little different," said Betty St. Onge of the University of Regina financial aid office. "If the scholarships aren't given out, we change the terms." St. Onge said that if certain scholarships are not applied for, they will seek out students who they know are eligible, or they go back to the donor and work on changing the terms. They will also contact individual faculties so that they can put their students in contact with financial aid.

"We won't hold the scholarship money for more then [sic] a year, but in larger facilities you can't do that." In institutions like the University of Manitoba, the majority of the scholarships don't require application. They either go to the person with the highest marks in a faculty, or someone nominated by their professors. Very few scholarships are offered by application process. "The only scholarships that don't get given out are ones that are offered for courses where the professor is on sabbatical or the course is no longer offered," said Cheryl Richardson of the University of Manitoba financial aid office. "The few scholarships that require applications will have applicants."

Despite the fact that many Saskatchewan students are not searching out scholarships, the financial aid offices claim that they themselves are ultimately responsible for informing students. "There has to be an education process on our part," said St. Onge.

NEWS FROM AU

Contributed by The Insider

AU's summer in review ...

It's hard to believe it's over, isn't it? Already the sun is setting far earlier than seems right, and a much cooler breeze is nipping at the bare ankles of those die-hards who aren't ready to admit that winter is coming.

For some in the AU community, this summer was laid back. However, time doesn't stop when we're on vacation. The last few months have been more than eventful. Starting from the beginning ...



Right around the hubbub that is Convocation at Athabasca University, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada announced that AU's own Drs. Peter Holt and Oscar Lin were selected to receive funding that will allow them to continue their research projects. Peter will continue his research into human-computer interactions within e-Learning environments; Oscar is working on a computer-based learning agent that will allow AU students to more effectively adapt courses to their own learning needs.

This summer was doubly significant for Dr. Oscar Lin, as he and his family became Canadian citizens. They weren't alone, either. Doug Kariel, Head of AU's Technical Services and Systems, also pledged allegiance to the Canadian flag at the same citizenship ceremony. Congratulations Oscar and Doug!



Of course, Convocation 2003, held June 13 and 14 at AU Central, was an unparalleled success. Over 300 graduates, plus staff, faculty, friends and dignitaries, packed the Convocation tent over the two days to celebrate the accomplishments of AU's finest. [Read more here.](#)

Athabasca University also experienced some bittersweet moments this summer. After seven years in the Vice-President, Academic's chair, Alan Davis bid a fond farewell to the AU community as he left to take up his new position as V-P, Academic at Niagara College in Ontario. [Read more here.](#)



Particularly difficult was the passing of Dave DasGupta. It was July, and Dave was just eight months away from his twentieth anniversary with Athabasca University when he died of a heart attack. In the words of former V-P, Academic Alan Davis, Dave was an engaging and dedicated tutor in mathematics, management science and economics in the Centre for Science and the School of Business





from 1984-2003. He was recognized for his dedication in 1996, the year he shared the Sue and Derrick Rowlandson Memorial Award for Service Excellence with Lloydene Eherer.

On a more upbeat note, AU celebrated a number of highlights in the career of president, Dominique Abrioux. First, on July 30, Dominique celebrated his first 25 years at Athabasca University. On September 13, Dominique traveled to France to accept an Honourary Doctor of The Open University, from the U.K.'s The Open University. Does that make him Dr. Dr. Abrioux? [Read more here.](#)

Also in the 25-year anniversary file is AU history professor Alvin Finkel. Alvin began writing AU's first history courses back in 1978 and has become a specialist in developing textbooks in Canadian history. Those who RSVP'd in time will be attending a celebration luncheon at University House on Wednesday, September 17. Look for more on Alvin's 25 years at AU in your next edition of the Insider.



The Athabasca University Geophysical Observatory has been collecting auroral and weather activity in the Athabasca area since its installation last year. However, Dr. Martin Connors informs us, that weather information is now available on-line. Check out Athabasca's up-to-the-minute weather conditions by logging onto <http://weather.athabascau.ca>.

You can also check out the latest on the eduSource Canada project by clicking on <http://edusource.athabascau.ca>.

Diane Ellefson, Employment Services/Occupational Health and Safety Advisor, completed her Athabasca University Governing Council (AUGC) duties on Aug. 13. Diane has been contributing as AUGC's non-academic staff representative since 1997.

The non-academic staff representative on Governing Council is now Nicole Belland, Student Recruitment and Liaison Assistant. Athabasca University thanks Diane for her years of dedicated service and wishes her the best in everything. AU also welcomes Nicole and looks forward to all she will contribute to AUGC.

As for the future, there are some new initiatives on the horizon. As one of several moves afoot to increase discussion and interaction among AU community members, the *Insider* now takes letters to the editor.

Share your thoughts on what you see here, or other matters relating to University life. Naturally, the laws of libel and defamation apply to the *Insider*, and will be considered before letters are published. Send your brief - and signed! (nothing will be printed anonymously) - letters to insider@athabascau.ca. We look forward to reading what you have to say!

Want to **STOP** smoking?

It's easier with **HELP.**

Smoker's Help Line **1-866-33AADAC**

AADAC
Alberta Addictions and Mental Health
www.aadac.com

alberta
HEALTH FIRST

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

For scholarships available through the Athabasca University Students' Union, see the AUSU website at www.ausu.org



Athabasca University Awards and Scholarship Information

The Office of the Registrar would like to advise students of pending deadlines for scholarships and awards:

Award Name: Alberta Blue Cross 50th Anniversary Scholarship

Value: \$375

Program: Bachelor of Nursing

Basic Criteria: Highest GPA in last two courses

Application Deadline: September 30

Award Name: Persons Case Scholarship

Value: \$1,000 to \$5,000

Program: All programs are eligible

Basic Criteria: Female; Full-time; Resident of Alberta

Application Deadline: September 30

Award Name: Bursary Program for Indigenous Students

Value: \$Varies

Program: School of Business programs

Basic Criteria: Students of Indigenous Heritage

Application Deadline: On-going, contact Paulette Windsor at 1-800-788-9042, ext. 6149

For more information on the specific criteria for these awards, please visit the AU website at:

<http://www.athabascau.ca/html/depts/registry/studawrd.htm>

Applications for these awards can be obtained by calling the Office of the Registrar at 1-780-675-6705 or by email at awardsinfo@athabascau.ca.

JIMMIE CONDON ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Value: \$1800

DEADLINE: November 01, 2003

Administrator: Alberta Scholarship Programs

Notes: Must be enrolled as a full-time student and be a member of a designated sports team or a member of Provincial Disabled Athletic Team recognized by the Alberta Athlete Development Program. See the Web site for more details.

Contact Information:

Alberta Scholarship Program
9940 - 106 Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 28000, Station Main
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone: (780) 427-8640

Fax: (780) 422-4516

Web Site: <http://www.alberta-learning.ab.ca/scholarships>

E-mail: heritage@gov.ab.ca

Application Address: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/forms.asp>



CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Contributed By AU's *The Insider*

- **On-line Learning** - Sept. 22-24 - Los Angeles, Los Angeles Convention Center
Details: <http://www.onlinelearningconference.com/>
- **The 10th Cambridge International Conference on Open and Distance Education** - "The Future of Open and Distance Education" - September 23-26 - Madingley, Cambridge, England. Details: <http://www2.open.ac.uk/r06/conference/conference.htm>
- **E-COMM-LINE 2003 Fourth European Conference on E-Learning** - "E-Business/E-Commerce/E-Work/E-Health/E-Banking/E-Democracy/E-Government/BB & On-line Services Applications, New Working Environments, Virtual Institutes and their influences on the Economic and Social Environment" - September 25-26 - Bucharest, Romania. Details: <http://www.athabasca.ca/events/E2003R.DOC>
- **ADETA Fall Workshop** - "Keeping it Simple for the Learner" - October 1 - Olds, Alberta. Details: <http://www.adeta.org/>
- **AU Learning Services Conference** - October 3 & 4, 2003 - Edmonton, Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Details: <http://intra.athabasca.ca/iso/LS.php?task=conference>
- **NAWeb 2003** - Ninth Annual Conference on Web-based Teaching and Learning - October 18-21 - Fredericton, New Brunswick. Details: <http://naweb.unb.ca>
- **EDUCAUSE 2003** - November 4-7 - Anaheim, California. Details: <http://www.educause.edu/conference/annual/2003/>
- **ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2003** - December 3-5 - Berlin, Germany. Details: http://www.global-learning.de/q-learn/cgi-bin/cgi_userpage.cgi?StructuredContent=m1301

OTHER CONFERENCES

- **CAPDHHE [Canadian Association for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment in Higher Education]** - To be held in Calgary, October 29 - November 1, 2003.
<http://www.capdhhe.org/conference2/index.htm>

Know of an educational conference that is not on this list? Contact voice@ausu.org with the details and we'll list it in Conference Connections.



classifieds

Classifieds are free for AU students! Contact voice@ausu.org for more information.

EDMONTON COFFEE GROUP: Edmonton and Area AU students are holding their inaugural face-to-face get together and you're invited. It will be a casual social mixer and a way to connect with fellow students.

Meet other students in your program, make new friends, have a coffee, find study buddies and find out what's going on at AU and the SU.

If you would like to take part in the Edmonton and Area get together, contact RYAN for info at: rwagner@ausu.org

THE VOICE

c/o Athabasca University Students' Union
2nd Floor, 10030-107th Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4
800.788.9041 ext. 3413

Editor In Chief Tamra Ross Low

THE VOICE ONLINE: WWW.AUSU.ORG/VOICE

The Voice is funded by the Athabasca University Students' Union, for the students of Athabasca university

The Voice is published every Wednesday in html and pdf format

Contact *The Voice* at: **VOICE@AUSU.ORG**

To subscribe for weekly email reminders as each issue is posted, see the 'subscribe' link on *The Voice* front page
www.ausu.org/voice

The Voice does not share its subscriber list with anyone

Special thanks to Athabasca University's *The Insider* for its contributions
© 2003 by The Voice